

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A computerized method for administering a digital photography game system  
2 comprising:  
3 providing a digital photography game for online access by multiple participants;  
4 receiving a digital photography game entry from the multiple participants;  
5 determining if the digital photography game entry is equivalent to a game  
6 solution; and  
7 declaring at least one digital photography game winner based on an equivalency  
8 of the digital photography game entry with the game solution.
- 1 2. The computerized method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2 sorting the digital photography game entry by a unique game identifier; and  
3 sorting the digital photography game entry by an order in which the digital  
4 photography game was received.
- 1 3. The computerized method of claim 1 wherein the digital photography game entry  
2 comprises a plurality of digital photograph files, each of the plurality of digital  
3 photograph files having a file format selected from the group consisting of TIFF, APS,  
4 PCD, PICT, EPS, FPX, Exif, JPEG, TIFF/EP, GIF, JFIF, BMP, and FITS.
- 1 4. The computerized method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2 requiring creation of the digital photography game entry using a digital camera.
- 1 5. The computerized method of claim 2 further comprising:

2 converting the received digital photograph files into a standard file format  
3 selected from the group consisting of TIFF, APS, PCD, PICT, EPS, FPX, Exif, JPEG,  
4 TIFF/EP, GIF, JFIF, BMP, and FITS.

1 6. The computerized method of claim 1, wherein receiving the digital photography  
2 game entry comprises:  
3 receiving a set of digital images as a plurality of subsets, each subset comprising  
4 a digital image associated with one of a plurality of game instructions; and  
5 identifying the digital photography game associated with the digital photography  
6 game entry; and  
7 associating the game solution with the digital photography game entry.

1 7. The computerized method of claim 6 further comprising:  
2 storing a partial digital photography game entry in a working game entry area.

1 8. The computerized method of claim 6 further comprising:  
2 receiving a plurality of digital photography game entries for the same digital  
3 photography game.

1 9. The computerized method of claim 8 wherein receiving a plurality of digital  
2 photography game entries for the same digital photography game further comprises:  
3 receiving each of the plurality of digital photography game entries for the same  
4 digital photography game from a cellular signal; and  
5 verifying that the cellular signal originated from a predetermined location.

1 10. The computerized method of claim 1 wherein determining if the digital  
2 photography game entry is equivalent to the game solution comprises:

3 comparing a resolution of the digital photograph file with a digital game  
4 solution;  
5 comparing a color of the digital photograph file with the digital game solution;  
6 and  
7 comparing an aggregate pixel content of the digital photograph file with the  
8 digital game solution.

1 11. The computerized method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2 notifying the multiple participants of the at least one digital photography game  
3 winner.

1 12. The computerized method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2 determining a reward for participation in the digital photography game.

1 13. The computerized method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2 publishing the game solution online for public viewing.

1 14. The computerized method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2 publishing the game solution online for private viewing.

1 15. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions to cause a  
2 computer to perform a method comprising:  
3 identifying a digital photography game from a plurality of digital photography  
4 games, the digital photography game comprising a set of game instructions;  
5 receiving a digital photography game entry from a user, the digital photography  
6 game entry comprising a number of digital images associated with each game  
7 instruction; and

8           determining an equivalency of the digital photography game entry with a game  
9   solution.

1   16.    The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein determining an equivalency  
2   of the digital photography game entry with a game solution includes converting the  
3   digital images to a standard file format.

1   17.    The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the computer is a web site  
2   server and the digital photography game is viewable online from the server.

1   18.    The computer-readable medium of claim 15 having further computer-executable  
2   instructions comprising:  
3           determining a reward for participation in the digital photography game; and  
4           publishing the reward for public viewing.

1   19.    The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein a reward for participation is  
2   based on the type of digital photography game.

1   20.    The computer-readable medium of claim 15 having further computer-executable  
2   instructions comprising:  
3           notifying a user of the results of the equivalency determination of the digital  
4   photography game entry with the game solution; and  
5           publishing game winners for public viewing.

1   21.    The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the computer is a stand-  
2   alone computer and the digital photography game is executable on the stand-alone  
3   computer.

1 22. The computer-readable medium of claim 15 having further computer-executable  
2 instructions comprising:  
3 receiving a user configuration of the digital photography game; and  
4 modifying the digital photography game in accordance with the user  
5 configuration.

1 23. A computerized system comprising:  
2 a processor;  
3 a memory coupled to the processor through a system bus;  
4 a computer-readable medium coupled to the processor through the system bus;  
5 and  
6 an online digital photography game process executed from the computer-readable  
7 medium by the processor to cause the processor to receive a digital photography game  
8 entry from multiple participants, to determine an equivalency of the digital photography  
9 game entry with a game solution, and to declare a game winner.

1 24. The computerized system of claim 23, wherein the online digital photography  
2 game process further causes the processor to publish results of the game online.

1 25. The computerized system of claim 23, wherein the online digital photography  
2 game process further causes the processor to notify the multiple participants of the  
3 results of the online digital photography process.

1 26. The computerized system of claim 23, wherein the online digital photography  
2 game process further causes the processor to publish game instructions in accordance  
3 with a predetermined schedule.

1 27. The computerized system of claim 23, wherein the online digital photography  
2 game process further causes the processor to publish game instructions comprising a  
3 series of scavenger hunt clues describing predetermined digital photographs.

1 28. The computerized system of claim 27, wherein the online digital photography  
2 game process further causes the processor to publish the series of scavenger hunt clues  
3 comprising locations within a geographical area.

1 29. The computerized system of claim 27, wherein the online digital photography  
2 game process further causes the processor to publish the series of scavenger hunt clues  
3 comprising a product of an advertiser.

1 30. A computerized system comprising:  
2 a processor;  
3 a memory coupled to the processor through a system bus; and  
4 an online digital photography game process executed from the memory to cause  
5 the processor to receive a digital photography game entry from multiple participants, to  
6 determine an equivalency of the digital photography game entry with a game solution,  
7 and to declare a game winner.

1 31. A networked server system comprising:  
2 means for posting a digital photography game;  
3 means for posting digital images associated with the online digital photography  
4 game in a working game entry area;  
5 means for posting a game solution; and  
6 means for publishing the results of the digital photography game.

1 32. The networked server system of claim 31, further comprising:

2 means for awarding one or more of a plurality of participants in the digital  
3 photography game based on an order in which an equivalent digital photography game  
4 entry with the game solution was received.

1 33. The networked server system of claim 32, further comprising:  
2 means for notifying one or more of the plurality of participants of the results of  
3 the online digital photography game.

1 34. The network server system of claim 33, wherein the means for notifying creates  
2 an electronic mail message to be delivered to the plurality of game participants.

1 35. A method for rewarding participants in online digital photography games  
2 comprising:  
3 displaying multiple digital photography games to a plurality of participants, each  
4 game comprising a set of game instructions;  
5 receiving a digital photography game entry from at least one of the plurality of  
6 participants; and  
7 determining at least one game winner from the plurality of participants for each  
8 digital photography game.

1 36. The network server system of claim 35, wherein the method for rewarding  
2 participants in online digital photography games further comprises:  
3 requesting the plurality of participants to submit a digital photography game entry  
4 in response to the displaying of the set of game instructions.

1 37. The method for rewarding participants in online digital photography games of  
2 claim 35 further comprising:

3           rewarding at least one game winner by one or more of recognizing the at least  
4   one winner, awarding a prize, and giving an amount of cash.

1   38.    A method for receiving compensation for a server receiving a digital photography  
2   game entry from a user comprising:  
3           determining an amount of compensation based on type of digital photography  
4   game chosen by the user;  
5           requesting the amount of compensation from the user; and  
6           receiving the amount of compensation.

1   39.    The method of claim 38 further comprising:  
2           disallowing access to a digital photography game system server by the user until  
3   the amount of compensation is received.

1   40.    The method of claim 38 further comprising:  
2           validating the amount of compensation received.

1   41.    The method of claim 38, wherein determining the amount of compensation  
2   comprises:  
3           determining if the user subscribes to a plan offered by the online digital  
4   photography game system server; and  
5           calculating the amount of compensation in accordance with terms of the plan.

1   42.    A method for receiving compensation for a server comprising:  
2           displaying an advertisement as part of an online digital photography game;  
3           requesting an amount of compensation from an advertiser; and  
4           receiving the amount of compensation.



- 1 43. The method of claim 42 further comprising:
- 2 incorporating products of the advertiser into a series of scavenger hunt clues as
- 3 part of the online digital photography game.